



Atty. Dkt. No. 053466-0365

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroaki ITO et al.

Title: A PREVENTIVE OR THERAPEUTIC AGENT FOR
INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE COMPRISING IL-6
ANTAGONIST AS AN ACTIVE INGREDIENT

Appl. No.: 10/677,227

Filing Date: 10/3/2003

Examiner: Prema Maria MERTZ

Art Unit: 1646

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed September 14, 2005, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group II, Claims 14-19, 22, 24-28, and 29-42 for examination.

The Examiner has required restriction between Claims 1-13 (Group I), drawn to an antibody against IL-6 receptor protein and Claims 14-19, 22, 24-28, 29-42 (Group II), drawn to a method of treating or preventing inflammatory bowel disease. Restriction was required because the Examiner thought that the product as claimed can be used in immunochromatography, in immunoaffinity or in immunochemistry methods. Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group II, Claims 14-19, 22, 24-28, and 29-42 for examination.

Applicants now await a first substantive action on the merits. Should there be any question regarding this application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 13, 2006

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